1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. Shroder
1 - Mr. Raupach
1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Lenihan

The Deputy Attorney General

June 30, 1966

Director, FBI

REC'D 105-82555-5486

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

On June 27, 1966, Mr. John T. Duffner of your office contacted Mr. Kenneth M. Raupach of this Bureau and requested to be furnished specific information in our possession concerning the small portable radio which was obtained in the search of Lee Harvey Oswald's residence in connection with the investigation of the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy. Mr. Duffner also requested to be informed whether Lee Harvey Oswald was capable of reading and understanding Spanish.

For your information, this radio and its power supply unit are in the custody of this Bureau pending receipt of instructions from the Attorney General regarding disposition of all items of evidence maintained in this case. The radio is a small, brown, plastic, Russian-made radio known as the "Tourist." The receiver is designed to tune from approximately 175 kilocycles (.175 megacycles) through approximately 1875 kilocycles (1.875 megacycles) as indicated on the tuning dial. This covers the standard broadcast band as used on the common household radio in the United States and a little beyond but does not cover the short-wave frequencies. Inasmuch as the receiver was not in operating condition, the precise tuning range could not be verified; however, the tuning mechanism does not appear to have been altered to tune to frequencies other than those indicated on the tuning dial. The radio contains five tubes.

When operating properly, the radio, if used in the southeastern section of the United States, would be capable of receiving radio broadcasts from Cuban radio stations, particularly at night. The radio was designed to operate on dry cell batteries or on ordinary house current when used in conjunction with its power supply unit.

REL:kas
(12)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO.

JUN 30 1966 COMM-FBI

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Wick
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

JUL 8 1966

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

105-82555 Section 229

The radio was not in operating condition when it was received by this Bureau from the Dallas Police Department. No attempt was made by this Bureau to repair the radio since to have done so would have changed the physical condition of the radio from that in which it was received.

During the course of our investigation of Lee Harvey Oswald and the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy, we developed no credible evidence that Oswald could read, speak or understand the Spanish language. We closely questioned Marina Oswald, wife of Lee Harvey Oswald, on this particular point December 16, 1963, and she stated that Oswald could not read, speak or understand Spanish. She recalled that she had purchased a self-study book on the Spanish language while in Russia and on occasion Oswald would try to pronounce Spanish words; however, his pronunciations were very bad and she laughed at his attempts to speak the language.

The Warren Commission in its "Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy" also commented on Oswald's lack of proficiency in the Spanish language. On page 733 of its Report, the Warren Commission reported that Oswald, while on a bus en route to Mexico City on September 26-27, 1963, asked a fellow passenger how to say "How can I help you?" in Spanish. Several other passengers on the bus were of the impression Oswald did not speak Spanish. One girl on the bus noted that Oswald ate large meals during meal stops by the bus and she believed he did so because he could not make himself understood in Spanish and had to order by pointing at the menu.

NOTE:

Reference is made to memorandum Mr. Rosen to Mr. DeLoach dated 6/27/66, captioned "Lee Harvey Oswald; Internal Security - Russia - Cuba."